MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: May 6, 2020
Meeting Location: Held Remotely
Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Rod Hsiao, Ted Lempert, Joe Ross
Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant
Other Staff Present: Claire Cunningham, Mefula Fairley, Jennifer Frentress, Jeneé Littrell, Patricia Love, Lori Musso, Anjanette Pelletier, Denise Porterfield

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. He announced the County Board was conducting the meeting as a webinar in light of the current Shelter-in-Place order executed by the San Mateo County Health Officer for the purpose of slowing the community spread of COVID-19 and the Governor’s March 17, 2020, Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain provisions of the Brown Act to allow governing boards to conduct meetings through remote access.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the May 6, 2020, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

   **A. April 15, 2020, Regular Board Meeting**

   After a motion by Mr. Cannon and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Minutes of the April 15, 2020, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   **B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 20-28 Honoring Victoria Diaz on Her Retirement**

   **C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 20-29 Condemning Anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate Speech and Behavior and Calling for Unity**

   **D. Adopt Board Resolution No. 20-30 Authorizing Agents to Apply for and Manage the School Communications Interoperability Grant Program (SCIGP)**

   Ms. Alvaro requested to remove Consent Agenda item 4.D. for discussion. After a motion by Mr. Hsiao and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Consent Agenda without item 4.D.

   Ms. Alvaro asked why there was no budget plan attached to Board Resolution No. 20-30. Superintendent Magee explained this resolution represents a grant being extended to all county offices from the California Office of Emergency Services (OES). Superintendent Magee shared the grant process required that staff use the OES resolution template which did not include a budget page. Superintendent Magee explained the $60,000 is to be used for the purposes of equipment that strengthens site communication during emergencies. She said the allowed expenditures are addressed in the cover memo.

   Mr. Hsiao noted the funds are a standard allotment across counties with an important purpose, and he is comfortable moving forward with approval. Superintendent Magee reiterated that typically the budget would be included with a grant funding submission.

   After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved Consent Agenda item 4.D.

5. **LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP)**

   **A. Receive Update on 2020-2021 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Process and SMCOE Plan**

   Deputy Superintendent Littrell reminded the Board that although May is typically focused on sharing the LCAP goals with the community and the Board, due to unprecedented conditions, the LCAP discussion has been extended. She would instead be updating the Board on Governor Newsom’s Executive Order and what to expect for LCAP and budget plan timelines going forward.
Deputy Superintendent Littrell stated on April 23, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-56-20, which gives school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools until December 15, 2020, to adopt next year’s LCAP. She explained the conditions of the extension include the following:

- Local Educational Agency’s presentation of a written report on COVID-19 and its impacts at a meeting concurrent with its adoption of the annual budget
- LCAP and Budget Overviews for Parents extended from July 1, 2020, to December 15, 2020
- Self-reported local indicators for the Dashboard extended to December 15, 2020
- LCAP approvals for San Mateo County’s 23 districts by County Superintendent of Schools and Superintendent of Public Instruction extended to January 14, 2021

Deputy Superintendent Littrell explained the LCAP written report must:

- Explain changes to program offerings made in response to school closures to address the COVID-19 emergency
- Explain major impacts of such closures on students and families, including how the LEA is meeting the needs of unduplicated pupils, defined to include low-income, foster youth, and English Learner students (comprising the majority of students in the Court and Community program), during the period of school closures
- Include any steps taken by the LEA, consistent with Governor Newsom’s March 13, 2020, Executive Order to support continued delivery of distance learning, provision of school meals, and supervision of students during ordinary school hours
- Be submitted in conjunction with the adopted annual budget
- Be posted on the homepage of an LEA’s website

Deputy Superintendent Littrell shared how beginning in January 2020, LCAP development was well underway, and described the SMCOE LCAP stakeholder engagements completed to date. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield then explained how the following annual budget requirements have been waived:

Actions Waived:
- Adoption of an LCAP prior to adopting a budget and including budget expenditures identified in the LCAP
- Disapproval of a budget that does not include expenditures necessary to implement the LCAP by September 15, 2020, and November 8, 2020, respectively
- Prohibition of County Superintendents of Schools in adopting or approving a budget before the LCAP for the budget year is approved
- Prohibition of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in approving a budget if the county Board of Education has not adopted a LCAP or if the budget does not include the expenditures necessary to implement the LCAP

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield further described how the Budget and the LCAP are now uncoupled, and although a separate public hearing is not required for the written report, it is recommended that the written report be presented in conjunction with the budget public hearing.
continued that it is anticipated that the LCAP and Budget will be recoupled at the First Interim Report in December 2020 so despite temporary waivers, it will likely come back together. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained SMCOE will continue to develop its budget and align its goals and actions with the LCAP which will be brought to the Board in December.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield outlined the Board’s June calendar for action, to include:

- June 3, 2020
  - Presentation of COVID-19 Operations Report
  - Budget Public Hearing

- June 17, 2020
  - Board Action on COVID-19 Operations Report
  - Board Action on 2020-2021 Budget

Mr. Lempert thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell and Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the report. He stated many students who are English Learners, foster youth, and students in poverty are not getting the support they need, and asked how SMCOE is overseeing accountability of districts. Mr. Lempert said he understands the state is waiving LCAP requirements for now, but he doesn’t want the emergency to lead to increasing inequities.

Associate Superintendent Frentress replied that supports to districts have pivoted to providing resources and professional development. She continued the Curriculum and Instruction district teams meet each Friday, allowing SMCOE to respond to and support their needs. Associate Superintendent Frentress described how robust summer professional development is planned for district staff. She also shared many districts had all but completed their LCAPs and are continuing to follow their goals.

Administrator Dardenelle also shared SMCOE continues to support districts in the development of their LCAP plans. She stated when district LCAPs come to SMCOE for approval, districts receive specific feedback regarding legalities and regulations. Administrator Dardenelle said the new form for the written report was released on Monday and on Tuesday her team held an informational session to acclimate district staff to the report.

Ms. Alvaro thanked staff for the explanations. She described how the Cabrillo Unified School District (CUSD) and providers on the coast are struggling with outreach to students who are not being served. Ms. Alvaro discussed a conversation with Rosalva Segura, who runs the Los Listos State Preschool Program, about their requirements for their migrant education grants and how they are looking for ways to reach out to the highest risk families. She feels the districts are desperately seeking ideas and guidance on how to work best in this new territory, and although this is part of the LCAP oversight process, it is bigger than that. Ms. Alvaro shared she is open to any suggestions on how to best support these vulnerable families.

Mr. Ross stated SMCOE and districts have an obligation to report on addressing teaching during COVID-19, and he sees an emerging theme of learning loss. He explained months have been lost during the Shelter-In-Place and more months will be lost during summer. Mr. Ross also shared that
while some students with access are not slowing down with online learning, there are other students who cannot log in or access the internet. He is worried about the ever growing gap and suggested this issue also be treated as an emergency. Mr. Ross stated Superintendent Magee has done a great job leading in education issues during this crisis, and he wonders if an education component can be added to SMC Strong, such as an SMC Strong Education Fund. He said in the last week, $1 million was granted to small business and that donations were flowing in quickly. He suggested SMCOE identify an opportunity to put money into addressing the education and mental health crisis. Mr. Ross discussed how there are LCAP accountability responsibilities, but the educational emergency is overwhelming and he questioned whether more could be done with the help of the Board and others.

Superintendent Magee replied SMCOE is supporting the COVID-19 Education Partnership that is raising emergency funds to support school districts. She said it’s not getting a lot of attention because SMC Strong is a big branded tool with lots of marketing, but that the COVID-19 Education Partnership, through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and shared with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, is accepting contributions. Superintendent Magee stated this week Congresswoman Speier included a request to contribute to the COVID-19 Education Partnership fund in her most recent mailing. Superintendent Magee requested the Board also advocate for support and contributions to this fund.

Mr. Ross asked if anything could be done to get SMC Strong to talk about this, because they are getting a lot of attention from elected officials and that he wasn’t as aware of the COVID-19 Education Partnership fund. Superintendent Magee agreed it is hard to compete as the SMC Strong campaign is huge, but it does not provide any funds to education.

Mr. Ross inquired about how SMCOE is advising districts on the likelihood that schools will open and close throughout the year. He said the Shelter-in-Place could be reinstated countywide or for a single school if there is a positive test result. Mr. Ross asked how to equip district teachers and students for the difficult plan of three weeks of in-class teaching, two weeks online, three weeks of in-class teaching, two weeks online, etc. Superintendent Magee responded this is part of the county recovery framework for schools currently being drafted, which will lay out the continuum of learning to include the ingredients for schools who must build their recipe for learning. She explained the framework will guide districts, but each district must also create its own local plan.

Mr. Ross asked Associate Superintendent Musso about resident teachers in residency programs having a role in making the transition between in-class and online learning easier, if the master teacher is not as technology-savvy. Associate Superintendent Musso responded the number one criterion is that the master teacher have the attributes a beginning teacher would benefit from, even though they may not have as much technology expertise as their incoming resident teachers.

Associate Superintendent Musso shared Alder has a strong component of distance learning. She also noted that current SMCOE staff in the credential programs are helping beginning teachers and administrators deal with this emergency, serve as a sounding board, and in conjunction with the Instructional Services Division, to find shared resources and learn new practices to gain expertise. Associate Superintendent Musso explained the programs already know school is going to be different and teachers and administrators must be supported in this new world.
LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) (continued)

Superintendent Magee added the recovery framework being created leads with equity by asking school leaders to start their planning by identifying the learning needs of underrepresented and underresourced students who need the most support and then create the plan with their needs front and center. She explained there may be limitations to the number of students on campus at any one time, and the plan could place students needing the most support at the front on in-person learning.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell interjected as Court and Community programs prepare for summer school, they are able to use specialized grant funds to offer summer school at Gateway and to offset learning loss. She continued most students fall into the unduplicated categories and many are underresourced, so the team is looking at a blended model with some in-person and some remote learning to serve more students. Deputy Superintendent Littrell shared excitement that these funds can support our program reaching back to districts in support of students who have returned from Hillcrest to Gateway and offer them summer supports at Gateway.

Mr. Hsiao discussed his focus on closing summer learning loss. He described how many districts are using summer as an experimental time to examine blended learning and bringing students in on a staggered schedule. He is glad SMCOE is already focused on this issue. Mr. Hsiao spoke of assessing how well students learn and how much in-person learning and interaction is needed to be successful in distance learning. He asked about the necessary dosage for students to be with peers and an instructor in-person, so they don’t experience stress and anxiety when learning from home.

Mr. Hsiao then made a plea to promote increased parent/family engagement and get parents involved. He shared feeling that local districts are trying to make distance learning work, but don’t always dedicate time and training to support parents so they can support their children. Mr. Hsiao requested SMCOE offer parent training programs to help their students with distance learning. Deputy Superintendent Littrell thanked Mr. Hsiao for his suggestion. She explained that for families of students at Kemp and Gateway with students living at home, every family came and picked up their devices, with bilingual family counselors calling ahead of time to talk them through the acceptable use agreements. Deputy Superintendent Littrell discussed the need to bring on a bilingual family counselor to engage and support parents with what they need to support their students. She hopes someone will be on board in this position soon. She elaborated the position would assist with parent cafes to serve parent needs and connect them to resources, and assured Mr. Hsiao this is a top priority which staff will continue to explore. Mr. Hsiao thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell for her response.

Ms. Alvaro discussed reaching district high-risk students and asked how schools will be held accountable for reaching targeted subgroups when so much disconnect is happening. She stated the Board does not approve the LCAPs for local districts but holding schools accountable when things aren’t happening is a concern. Ms. Alvaro shared the Cabrillo Unified School District will not be having summer school, an example of students not being served.

Ms. Alvaro spoke of the aspects of the LCAP not yet completed and asked if outreach meetings could be done through Zoom now, so they could continue to move forward. Deputy Superintendent Littrell confirmed this is the plan, and that surveys had been created and will be adapted to capture new conditions. She assured the Board there are plans to move forward with the engagement experiences for staff, stakeholders, parents, guardians, and partners. Deputy Superintendent Littrell
LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) (continued)

said SMCOE and districts are reporting an increase in parent engagement and communication through Zoom opportunities, which are beneficial as long as there are other methods available for families without technology.

Board President Camacho asked if the COVID-19 update reports which must be produced by every district will come through the County Office. Superintendent Magee confirmed they would be submitted to the County Office. Associate Superintendent Frentress clarified they are being collected, but not approved by the County Office. She said despite the uncoupling of the LCAP report and budget, SMCOE is supporting districts in their preparation.

6. STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION

A. First Reading and Action on Board Policy 5121 on Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement for Court and Community Programs

Deputy Superintendent Littrell shared that new conditions have brought concerns about grading and measuring achievement for districts. She described SMCOE’s desire to be in sync with districts regarding grading and the realization that SMCOE had no existing Board policy on grading and evaluation of student achievement. Deputy Superintendent Littrell explained the new Board policy is similar to that of local districts and county offices of education, to ensure students are being set up for success upon transition back to their districts of residence. She discussed the breakdown of grades matching that of local high school districts and the inclusion of an emergency grading policy, and summarized how the policy codifies current practices in the Court and Community program.

Mr. Hsiao asked if past practice has been to provide pass/no pass grades. Deputy Superintendent Littrell clarified the part of the policy outlining grade percentages for A, B, C, D, F is current practice, and there is also a no credit (NC) policy for times when students are enrolled in the program but do not attend school because they are in court or have medical conditions. She elaborated that SMCOE, during emergency periods, will adopt the pass/no pass grading system, with 60% or higher being a pass grade, and lower grades assigned a no pass grade.

Mr. Hsiao asked for help understanding the grading policies for the union high school districts and unified school districts, from which SMCOE receives students. Deputy Superintendent Littrell said her understanding is that Sequoia Union High School District has adopted a credit/no credit system, which Superintendent Magee confirmed. Superintendent Magee added that San Mateo Union High School District has also adopted a credit/no credit system, Jefferson Union High School District adopted a hybrid system of A, B, C, and no mark, and she was unsure if South San Francisco Unified School District has taken action. Board President Camacho reported that South San Francisco Unified School District adopted a unique policy of credit/incomplete and is not issuing no credit grades in order to avoid adversely impacting students. Superintendent Magee did not believe Cabrillo Unified School District or La Honda Pescadero Unified School District had taken action yet. She shared that SMCOE programs primarily have students from Sequoia Union High School District and San Mateo Union High School District, so the policy adoption matches their emergency plans.
Mr. Hsiao stated he loved the portion of the policy stating if students receive grades of D or below, they may repeat the class, allowing for grade recovery and improvement. He discussed the situation of a student taking a course and earning a D, and repeating the course and earning a higher grade, with both grades recorded and showing on the transcript, but the higher grade used for grade point average (GPA) calculation. Mr. Hsiao asked if, in these situations, the first course could be expunged from the transcript. Deputy Superintendent Littrell replied it is standard practice for the field to see the transcripts reflecting the number of efforts/attempts students have taken. She clarified if students earn a D in a class, they are granted credits, and if they retake the class, they do not get another set of credits but have their original grade adjusted.

Mr. Hsiao discussed the example of students who have worked hard at Gateway and Hillcrest for several months, but an emergency is declared, and their real performance is not recorded, which will discourage students. Mr. Hsiao requested that a letter grade be recorded, based on achievement prior to the emergency situation, but if students are not doing well, they are still afforded the opportunity to make up their grades in the future. He discussed whether that would be a problem in reconciling with feeder districts, and he shared empathy for students who extend effort. Deputy Superintendent Littrell clarified that if a student was passing a course with a B prior to an emergency, Mr. Hsiao would like a hold harmless policy, to which he agreed.

Board President Camacho asked if Community programs could offer less than five credits, which some continuation schools do, in the case of emergency situations, allowing students to leave with partial credits and the grades discussed by Mr. Hsiao. Deputy Superintendent Littrell replied the Administrative Regulations break down the use of partial credits, which could be given to students who have earned a percentage of their credits, with the use of pass/no pass during emergency situations. Board President Camacho asked if that was sufficient for Mr. Hsiao. Mr. Hsiao agreed that it sounded like a great compromise, and he thanked Mr. Camacho for the suggestion.

Mr. Ross discussed the extent to which students should be given a chance to acknowledge their progress given the circumstances. He said the change in grading policies inadvertently allow for a decline in effort by a teacher or student. He did not want the Board to lower the bar while also remaining empathetic to the difficult situation. Mr. Ross asked if the Board is comfortable that they are not lowering the bar, and he worries they are saying it is okay to do less. Deputy Superintendent Littrell discussed in this hold harmless time period students may have a drop in motivation and performance.

She explained the school programs submitted third quarter grades prior to COVID-19, so there was a cut off for the majority of students who had been enrolled for more than a short period of time. Deputy Superintendent Littrell summarized this policy may or may not benefit students depending on individual circumstances.

Board President Camacho said that conversations in local districts have focused on maintaining rigor and engagement and also recognizing students grappling with basic survival versus English class. He stated it is important the policy states the Superintendent may choose to adopt a temporary grading system during emergencies, which provides leeway to examine the particular emergency and determine whether credit/no credit is or is not appropriate, and he likes the use of the word may.
Ms. Gerard agreed that Board President Camacho’s point is important because situations are different for students and districts, and the word *may* provides discretion as necessary. Board President Camacho reiterated he likes the flexibility, as some districts have received pushback for not having the authority to make this decision and this allows the Superintendent to begin the conversation. He spoke of the need to adopt a policy right away, as there is no current policy. He also shared he is open to other language and he hoped to hear all concerns and readdress the policy at the next meeting if necessary.

Mr. Ross asked if the policy gives the Superintendent the discretion to determine at the start of the emergency, grades would be frozen and not go lower, but could improve.

Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham said her interpretation is that if an emergency grading system is implemented, it would be pass/no pass, and the *may* refers to the fact that just because there is an emergency does not mean the grading policy will be switched from the traditional. She indicated this is the significance of the word *may*, but if a new grading system is implemented, it will be pass/no pass. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham recognized there has been robust debate in feeder districts about which type of alternative grading system to implement in an emergency because there are good arguments for various available models and approaches. She explained with adoption of this Board policy, the Superintendent would determine when a modified grading policy of pass/no pass would be used during emergency periods. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham summarized if it is the will of the Board to have something other than pass/no pass, they should not vote to approve the current policy.

Ms. Alvaro shared she loved the language of credit/incomplete mentioned by Board President Camacho, and she does not want to hold up approval of the policy, but she would like a way to consider implementing that language down the line. She discussed how this policy gives students credit for what they have done without being penalized for situations such as not being able to get online or needing to work because parents have been laid off. Ms. Alvaro asked if the policy is passed at this time, the language of credit/incomplete, as opposed to pass/no pass be considered at a later time.

Superintendent Magee asked Deputy Superintendent Littrell if there was discussion about using a different parameter because no mark, no pass, and incomplete all have nuances. Deputy Superintendent Littrell replied this was discussed in consultation with Sequoia Union High School District and San Mateo Union High School District. She explained the disadvantage is that an incomplete does not help students returning to their districts, as the districts will not know which portions are incomplete. She added pass/no pass has a neutral impact on GPA and was considered the best way to send students back with as many credits as possible. Deputy Superintendent Littrell suggested to please the Board, this issue could be reconsidered.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell for her response and remarked SMCOE students are a special case because many are incarcerated, and therefore have access to instruction and teachers. She said she would be fine with pass/no pass, especially to ensure alignment with the two union high school districts. Ms. Alvaro discussed wanting to avoid situations where the high school districts cannot interpret grades and students are penalized.
Mr. Ross agreed with Ms. Alvaro and asked if additional discretion to implement different systems should be given to the Superintendent moving forward, as different future emergencies will call for different policies. Deputy Superintendent Littrell stated she is confident all students at Hillcrest have access and are completing work daily, but she is not confident that it is happening for students with other pressures. She asked Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham if this policy allows students working hard to receive letter grades. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham responded this would be allowed under this Board policy and administrative regulation because of the way it is written, which allows flexibility. She cited the language “in the case of an emergency where there is a significant disruption to students’ ability to access curriculum and instruction,” which has not occurred for court students, and it would make sense for them to adhere to the regular grading system, rather than the modified grading system. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham clarified it would be possible to have certain SMCOE programs have pass/no pass, with other programs having the traditional grading model, because they have not had significant disruption to access.

Mr. Hsiao asked about how partial credits work. Deputy Superintendent Littrell explained for students enrolled for only a few days at a given school, or who are experiencing transitions outside of their control, they may accumulate partial credits to get to a whole credit, allowing the learning to continue and minimizing harm. Mr. Hsiao asked about the grades which accompany partial credits, and whether a snapshot is taken of the student’s performance to give a grade at that point. Deputy Superintendent Littrell confirmed this was correct.

Mr. Cannon commented on the word *may*, and how it was not acceptable in contracts, with the word *shall* preferable to *may*, due to lack of confidence in the Board, Superintendent, or leadership. He said he was comfortable using the word *may* with Superintendent Magee and the past two superintendents because he trusts their judgement. Mr. Cannon said he was reassured by the questions and discussion by his colleagues and staff, and said that for him, the word *may* is appropriate. He stated the staff is professional and reiterated he is quite comfortable using the word *may* in this context. He related he is also interested in the conversation regarding the grading policy in the South San Francisco Unified School District.

Mr. Hsiao brought up the consideration of pass/incomplete instead of pass/no pass. Ms. Alvaro clarified that although she liked that language, Deputy Superintendent Littrell had explained this would not work for SMCOE students, as there needs to be alignment with the two high school districts, who are both in pass/no pass situations. She continued she was afraid this language would penalize students returning to their high school districts. Deputy Superintendent Littrell confirmed this was correct, and she feared the districts would restart students, because they would have no way of knowing what was not completed. Ms. Alvaro reiterated as much as she liked the pass/incomplete language, she was happy to not change the language as it would harm SMCOE students.

Mr. Hsiao asked if students input was included to reflect their preferences, and he said he wished Youth Commission Student Liaison Mufarreh was able to provide her opinion. Board President Camacho suggested when the Superintendent is considering a change in grading policy, feedback would likely be solicited from students, teachers, and staff from the community before making a final decision. He asked if this policy is being approved for adoption for the current semester. Deputy Superintendent Littrell confirmed the request is for this to become the policy. Board President
STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Camacho asked if the Superintendent is put in an emergency situation again, if the Superintendent would engage with stakeholders before making a decision. Superintendent Magee answered she trusted staff to seek the guidance of partner districts, with the most important alignment being the articulation of transcripts. She clarified this policy seemed the most supportive for students at this time. Superintendent Magee added if there is a different kind of emergency, the Board could ask for a review of the policy.

Board President Camacho summarized Mr. Hsiao’s concern about student input, asking in a future scenario, if the Superintendent is considering enacting this policy, would staff, teachers, and students be consulted? Superintendent Magee assured they would be. Mr. Hsiao shared in times of urgent crisis, this did not seem realistic. Superintendent Magee agreed. She described how students are not yet understanding the implications of the emergency on their lives, but in other types of different emergencies, students may be able to weigh in. Mr. Hsiao shared concern about the motivational effect of this type of grading system. He indicated he understood the need to align with feeder districts and not inadvertently penalize students, but if SMCOE is focused on equity, primary stakeholders should be consulted. Mr. Hsiao stated if the opportunity is not here now, he would love the opportunity to revisit the policy in the future when things aren’t quite as urgent.

Board President Camacho suggested adopting the policy so there is a grading policy on the books, which can be revisited and possibly revised when there is a Youth Commission Student Liaison on the Board. Mr. Hsiao agreed with this suggestion. Deputy Superintendent Littrell added in preparation for LCAP student engagement, input could be gathered on these issues. Mr. Hsiao stated he loved this idea.

Mr. Cannon discussed how committees, Boards, and Superintendents work for a long time, having long, bitter discussions about the huge topic of grading. He stated he likes what they have today but Mr. Hsiao has concerns which can be dealt with in Board subcommittees or designated staff teams, making additional recommendations. Mr. Cannon summarized there are three subjects which come up for discussion year after year in schools – discipline, tardy policies, and grades. He related these discussions are worthwhile but are huge topics, and right now the Board is close to where they want to be on the grading policy.

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Cannon, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved Board Policy 5121 on Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement for Court and Community Programs as presented. Board President Camacho shared appreciation for the robust conversation. He stated after listening in on conversations with the local districts, it was refreshing to see this level of engagement on the topic.

7. UPDATE ON RESPONSE AND SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

A. Receive Update on Response and Support for COVID-19 in San Mateo County

Superintendent Magee began by discussing work on the pandemic recovery framework, outlining the following points:
UPDATE ON RESPONSE AND SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 IN SAN MATEO COUNTY
(continued)

- The goal is to produce a local countywide framework that schools and districts can use as the anchor guidance for re-opening schools specific to the challenges of San Mateo County
- The workgroup is comprised of 14 school and county office of education leaders plus Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham
- The draft is being developed with close consultation from County Health Officer Dr. Morrow
- The Working Draft will be released early next week to district superintendents
- The Public Draft to be released late next week to school leaders and governance teams
- Draft will continue to evolve and reflect changing dynamics

Superintendent Magee described the new Health Officer Order due next week regarding vehicle-based graduations. She explained that under the leadership of Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham and colleagues, San Mateo County is developing criteria for a new Health Officer Order next week. The order will allow for certain, highly regulated vehicle-based gatherings. Schools would have the option to celebrate graduations virtually or through a vehicle-based gathering.

Superintendent Magee updated about summer programming, describing the following points:

- Summer activities and programs will be available to young people through modified operations
- All programs must follow the Emergency Child Care Restrictions currently in place
- This requires stable cohorts of no more than 12 students with no mixing of groups
- All hygiene and health protocols must be followed

Superintendent Magee provided information on The Big Lift impacts. She noted 2020 was the benchmark year for assessing Third Grade reading proficiency. The evaluation work of the Big Lift will be adjusted accordingly. The core partners remain fully committed to The Big Lift by the County of San Mateo, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and the San Mateo County Office of Education.

Additionally, Superintendent Magee spoke of The Big Lift and Inspiring Summers. Like all school-based programs, The Big Lift has to follow local health orders and analyze its capacity to implement a modified summer program. Four of the seven Big Lift districts are likely to move forward with a modified half-day program for Inspiring Summers.

Superintendent Magee noted there would a May Revision Budget Perspectives Workshop, presented by Capitol Advisors, for San Mateo County Education Leaders on May 22, 2020, at 11:00 a.m., and Board members could attend via Zoom. She indicated an email with the Zoom link would be provided soon. Superintendent Magee described how the perspective provided by Capitol Advisors would be enlightening and educational for everyone in the community.

Superintendent Magee reminded the Board of the COVID-19 Education Partnership, with information on the SMCOE website page and a button to donate. She requested the Board share out the information in any way possible with stakeholders and with those who hold education at the top of their priority list.
Mr. Ross thanked Superintendent Magee for her leadership. He shared one of the topics that arose in the conversations he and Mr. Lemper had with Innovate Public Schools focused on what to do to keep students safe. He related he was able to confidently state that Superintendent Magee and the San Mateo County Health Officer were leading in developing ways to ensure students can safely return to school.

Mr. Hsiao asked in regards to the Big Lift and Inspiring Summers, given the new emergency childcare health and safety measures, is it expected that only half the number of students could be served? Superintendent Magee confirmed this was true, and for those districts hiring additional teachers in order to meet that mark, the Big Lift program is going to cover those costs. She added at the same time, it is important to remember not all families feel comfortable sending their children back to in-person learning, so it is expected that some families who have registered will rescind their registration. Superintendent Magee shared two of the districts typically serve 480 students in the Inspiring Summers program, and this summer they are looking to serving 300 students, which is more than half, but lowered participation was already expected.

Mr. Hsiao asked how many students were able to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment Test to assess their third-grade reading skills. Superintendent Magee replied that no students took the exam, and the test was put on hold for this year. Mr. Hsiao asked if an assessment would be done in the fall. Superintendent Magee answered there are other assessments which could be utilized, but the alternative assessments have not yet been decided. She expressed confidence in Rand to pivot and figure out what is a viable evaluation tool to use with Big Lift third-graders between now and December, who at that time will be fourth-graders. Mr. Hsiao stated this would be an interesting statistical exercise, and he thanked Superintendent Magee.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Superintendent Magee for the report and discussed her Zoom meeting with the Coastside Big Lift Collaborative, updating that Cabrillo Unified School District (CUSD) Associate Superintendent Leticia Bhatia shared there would be no Big Lift Inspiring Summers for CUSD schools because there is no classroom space and no capacity to do deep cleaning. Ms. Alvaro stated there was discussion of doing the program remotely, but the decision was to cancel the program for the summer. She expressed extreme disappointment as the program has seen great progress.

Superintendent Magee described what the school districts are up against in reopening is extremely complicated. Ms. Alvaro added there is construction on at least one of the elementary school sites and the teachers are having to pack and move in the midst of all of this, so she understands the decision. Superintendent Magee shared that the Big Lift leaders, Carole Groom, Erica Wood, and she, determined distance learning was not an option for the Inspiring Summers program.

Board President Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee for the information and updates. He expressed appreciation for the information on graduation. He spoke of the call with the county manager earlier in the day and the request that Dr. Morrow be more forceful in his language. Board President Camacho disagreed, stating Dr. Morrow is right on point and elected officials must deliver the message of the severity of what the community is going through. He expressed appreciation for everything Dr. Morrow has been doing, and for Superintendent Magee delivering the messages
UPDATE ON RESPONSE AND SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 IN SAN MATEO COUNTY
(continued)

regarding health guidelines and how to make appropriate decisions. Board President Camacho again thanked Superintendent Magee for graduation guidance and for being a constant input for the school community. He said he is excited to continue delivering messages to help educate the community, and he thanked Superintendent Magee for her leadership and guidance through the developing situation. Superintendent Magee thanked each Board member for their support, sharing this is not something she would want to do again, but it is something she could not do alone, and the Board’s support means so much.

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by announcing Teacher Appreciation Week, and giving a big shout-out to teachers. Superintendent Magee could not say enough about the passion, commitment, expertise, and knowledge of teachers and thanked them for doing their best to reach students in so many different home and family situations. She said teachers’ ability to innovate and pivot is remarkable.

Superintendent Magee apologized for the SMCOE email challenges, causing a secondary emergency of sorts and creating additional stress. She commended the Information Technology (IT) team, under the leadership of Deputy Superintendent Porterfield and Administrator Owens.

Superintendent Magee said she and Deputy Superintendent Porterfield met with the Budget Subcommittee and discussed the need to invest in infrastructure to keep things functioning. She reported it was time for infrastructure upgrades at school site facilities and for business systems, despite the tough budget times, because SMCOE cannot afford to lose its communication systems. Superintendent Magee stated that Administrator Owens was taking the lead on pivoting and upgrading the email server and system sooner than anticipated.

Superintendent Magee congratulated Associate Superintendent Musso on her leadership along with SMCOE’s California School Employees Association (CSEA) leadership in successfully completing a positive and professional negotiation for a side agreement that addresses issues resulting from COVID-19.

Superintendent Magee described the convening of the last Leadership Seminar of the year the previous Monday, reminding the Board that they received an update on alignment of work under the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework. She hopes to bring more details forward to the Board in June or July.

Superintendent Magee stated she had a great meeting with the Innovate Public Schools Parent Group, with many team members joining in on the call, including Deputy Superintendent Littrell, Deputy Superintendent Porterfield, Associate Superintendent Frentress, Senior Administrator Fairley, and Administrator Love.
Superintendent Magee reported SMCOE staff continues to work on the Oxford Day Academy (ODA) memorandum of understanding (MOU). The goal is to bring the MOU to the Board for review on May 20.

Lastly, she wished a happy birthday to Deputy Superintendent Littrell.

9. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss Draft of Potential Joint Resolution In Support of California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

Superintendent Magee explained how Board President Camacho brought this item forward and how the model curriculum will eventually go to the State Board of Education for adoption. She stated the Ethnic Studies Curriculum is critically important to include in California’s scope of offerings.

Board President Camacho explained he sat in on a call at the invitation of Belmont-Redwood Shores School Board Trustee Amy Koo who described the Save Ethnic Studies model curriculum movement currently underway. He said the call was sponsored by the Asian-Pacific Islander Caucus and the discussion aims to ensure the curriculum is as inclusive as possible. He indicated he brought the resolution to the Board to see if it was something they wanted to pursue and support, even though it is being delayed at the state.

Mr. Lempert suggested it will take a lot of hours to ensure the language is just right, and described how inadvertent wording in the draft can easily be viewed as offensive. He expressed concern on weighing in at this time and discussed the need to wait, hear what everyone is saying, and make sure every word is right. Mr. Camacho said he appreciated Mr. Lempert’s feedback and context. He shared how many members on the call stressed the value of recognizing other cultures, highlighting the need to be inclusive, and suggested the item be revisited at a later time when a new draft is published. Board President Camacho mentioned he had given Superintendent Magee the link to the group working on the curriculum, and he asked her to share that with the Board in order for them to stay informed.

B. Discuss/Act on 2020-2021 Board Meeting Calendar

Superintendent Magee reminded the Board that earlier in the year she had brought forward the every three-week Board meeting calendar, and the Board had a robust discussion, agreeing it was an intriguing idea, but deciding they preferred the traditional calendar. Board President Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee for hearing the earlier feedback and providing both options for a visual comparison. He reminded the Board this is the normal time to adopt the calendar for the next year, and although there is not much clarity on the future of remote vs. in-person meetings, it was a good idea to adopt a calendar which could be adjusted as needed.

Ms. Alvaro shared her hope to remain on a traditional calendar, and suggested the language be changed to reflect that the change in meeting time for remote meetings. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham suggested the language be changed to specify as long as the Executive
Board of Education Meeting
May 6, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Order waiving the provisions of the Brown Act for in-person Board meetings issued by Governor Newsom is in effect, remote Board meetings will be conducted at 4 p.m., along with an asterisk on the calendar. Ms. Alvaro agreed this would be helpful to avoid confusion.

Board President asked if the calendar could be adopted, with the language be added afterwards. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham confirmed this was correct.

Ms. Gerard shared she was in favor of the traditional calendar under the circumstances, as two meetings seem to be necessary in the coming months, if not more. She stated she was ready to make a motion if there were no additional comments.

Mr. Hsiao commented he was open to the every three-week calendar, but given the current circumstances he sees the need for more frequent interactions. He stated he appreciated seeing the two options.

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Cannon, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the traditional 2020-2021 Board Meeting Calendar, with the remote meeting language modification.

C. Board Member Comments

Mr. Cannon
Mr. Cannon commented that the Budget Subcommittee meeting the previous week was very helpful, with a lot of good information and reassurance about SMCOE’s overall status. He thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield and the last three superintendents for leaving the organization in a good position for whatever might be coming ahead.

Ms. Gerard
Ms. Gerard thanked Superintendent Magee and everyone at the County Office for their hours and hours of hard work. She shared appreciation for the Budget Subcommittee meeting, which she felt contained a lot of helpful information, and she is glad for the position SMCOE is in. She informed the Board that the following day the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) conference committee would be sending a survey to all CCBE members regarding the conference, and she would appreciate all Board members submitting their opinions on the five questions. Ms. Gerard stated there have only been eight conference proposals, with zero from county offices, which are all extremely busy. She specified there were two proposals from charter groups, two proposals from law groups, and four proposals from Capital Advisors. Ms. Gerard discussed conversations with Superintendent Magee about submitting a proposal, but there just hasn’t been time. She indicated they are unsure if there will even be a conference, but there are alternatives.

Mr. Hsiao
Mr. Hsiao echoed his colleagues and shared deepest appreciation to staff for making enormous changes in their delivery of services despite the significant increase in obstacles. He also shared appreciation to Cabinet and managers doing budget planning among a great deal of uncertainty.
Mr. Hsiao agreed a lot of preparation has been done to brace SMCOE against the impact. He reiterated thanks to everyone.

Mr. Lempert
Mr. Lempert stated the call he and Mr. Ross had with Innovate Public Schools Parent Group had already been referenced, adding he found the call extremely helpful, and his comment and question earlier in the meeting was a reflection of what he heard from the parents. He shared even in the most intense crises we can’t take our eye off the ball for vulnerable populations, and we must ensure every student receives a great education. Mr. Lempert shared appreciation for how SMCOE is handling this tough time. He emphasized that statewide, some groups are advocating against prioritizing students who are English Learners, in foster care, or in poverty because things are too chaotic, and he feels that response is not appropriate. Mr. Lempert assured he had not heard that from SMCOE leadership. He reported the education disparities were shocking before COVID-19, but are now as much a crisis as the health crisis. Mr. Lempert suggested because SMCOE plays the lead role in overseeing what is going on, he encouraged all to highlight that issue every moment.

Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross shared he looked forward to future developments with the Ethnic Studies curriculum, as Ethnic Studies is American Studies. He shared in 1868 Lincoln gave a speech suggesting immigrants who believe in the aspiration and idea of the Declaration of Independence should consider themselves blood descendants of the founders of the country. Mr. Ross declared on the record that America is Ethnic Studies.

Mr. Ross discussed the meeting organized by Innovate Public Schools, describing them as able to bring more parents into a room than any other non-profit he had ever seen. He explained the parents live in East Palo Alto and Redwood City, are different ethnicities, and speak different languages. He stated he is interested in taking advantage of this during this crisis to have a Board meeting, or other type of meeting, where parents, students, and teachers can give voice to the challenges being faced. He reported we are hearing from leaders, which is great, but there are others who are ready to share their stories during this unprecedented time, and he hopes to find a way to allow that.

Ms. Alvaro
Ms. Alvaro echoed Mr. Lempert’s comments and stated although these are tough times and people are doing the best they can, that is not an excuse to take our eye off the students who are the most vulnerable and SMCOE is supposed to be serving. She stated this is a juggling act, and she thanked all staff for their reports and the hard work being done.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Ms. Perna for graciously assisting her with issues, getting answers, and for connecting her with the right people.

Ms. Alvaro reported the following day there is a Real Property Subcommittee meeting, to which she is looking forward. She said it was nice to see everyone and she is glad everyone is healthy and well.
Board of Education Meeting
May 6, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho echoed comments by Mr. Lempert, Mr. Ross, and Ms. Alvaro. He spoke of his county call earlier in the day and gave another shout-out to Dr. Morrow for doing something very important. Board President Camacho elaborated that Dr. Morrow described being in the midst of a crisis and the first thing he is asked about is someone’s gardener, swimming pool, and tennis court. He thanked his fellow Board members for continuing to have conversations about what if those struggling most were the model citizen or resident, and what if we planned around them. Board President Camacho said he heard that language come up in Board policy talk and Superintendent Magee’s comments about the most marginalized students, and suggested the Board continue to use their roles to elevate voices and remind fellow elected officials to plan around these populations. He shared he was thankful to be surrounded by people so committed to elevating voices, and he thanked everyone. Board President Camacho stated it was great to see everyone in attendance, and he thanked them. Lastly, he echoed Superintendent Magee’s shout-out to teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m. Board President Camacho announced the next regular meeting would take place on May 20, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp